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A massive effort is underway to re-vamp the inspection and weighing system for grain, the American farmer's most important export.

Last year, Congress wrote a new law to prevent short-weighing, misgrading and other abuses that can tarnish the image of United States grain exports.

CLOSER CHECK ON GRAIN



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Federal Grain Inspection Service

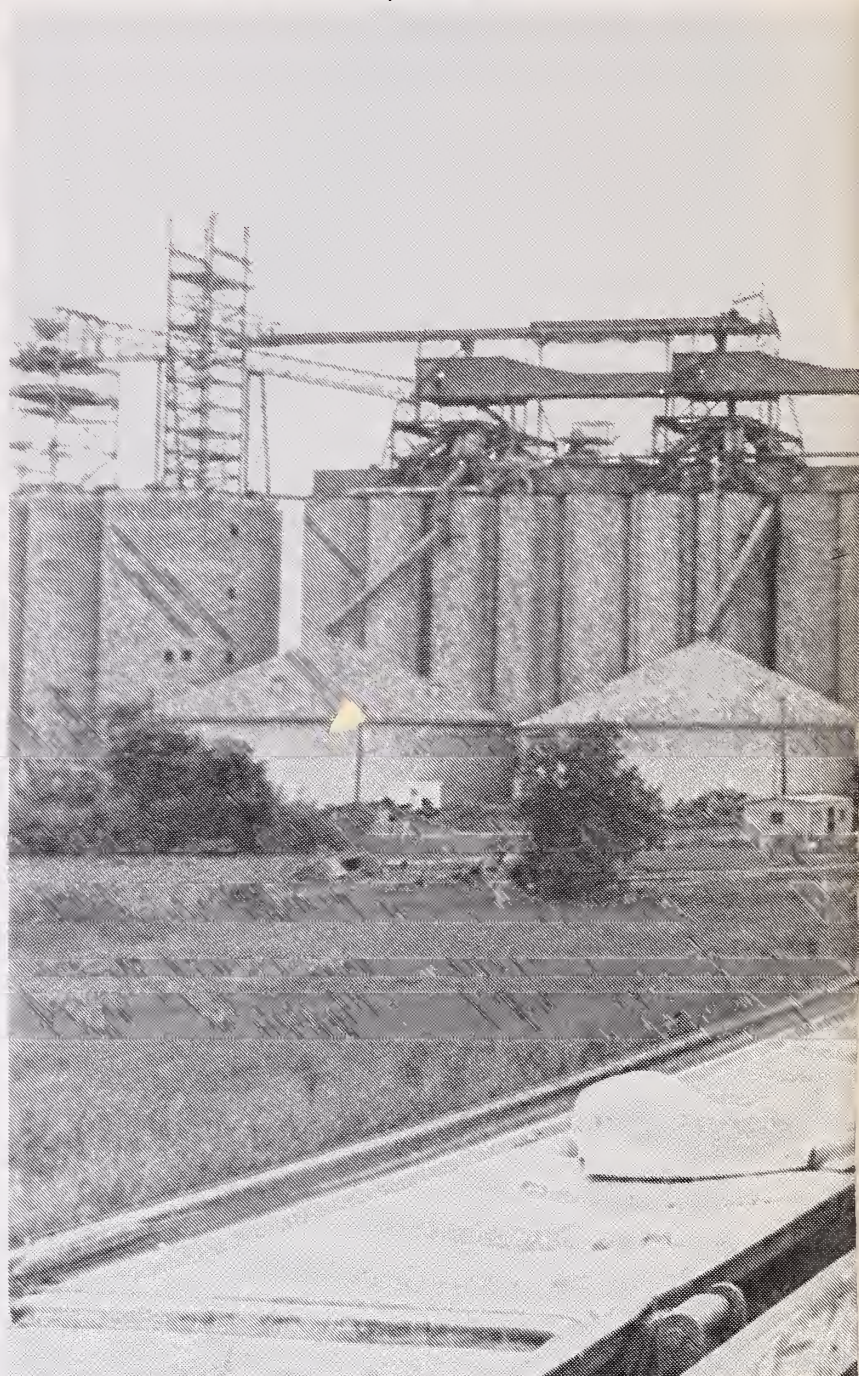
Picture Story 305
July 1977



ABOVE: Trainee grain inspectors develop skills sampling grain from a rail hopper car. (0476X357-7A). BELOW: Grain poured from each opening in the sampling probe represents a different depth in the hopper car. (0476X357-2A).



As a result of the new authority, a U.S. Department of Agriculture agency, still in its infancy, has been hiring and training a large force of inspectors and weighers to oversee the quality of export shipments at ports, and grain movement at major inland terminals such as Minneapolis and St. Louis.



Two-Way radio enables a grain inspector to more efficiently use his time. Inspection crew can get immediate directions from the supervisor on the radio. On problems that must be remedied before the grain may be moved. (1)

ON THE COVER: Ship at the Port of New Orleans takes on load of grain. Gulf coast port. (1076X1326-35). An inspector draws a sample of grain from a



ABOVE: Trainee grain inspectors develop skills sampling grain from a rail hopper car (0476X357-7A). BELOW: Grain poured from each opening in the sampling probe represents a different depth in the hopper car (0476X357-2A).



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Grain firms have cooperated—many voluntarily—in developing closer controls over the quality of their shipments. Time will tell how effective the new effort is, but USDA reports already indicate that there are fewer complaints from foreign buyers about grain quality.

The stakes are high. Last year, American grain shipped abroad brought back more than \$14 billion in foreign currencies. That's about two-thirds the value of U.S. farm product exports, which are the number one source of U.S. export income.



Two-Way radio enables a grain inspector to more efficiently use his time and helps to keep grain moving. Once samples are taken, the inspection crew can get immediate directions from the supervisor on the next load to be inspected. And they can report or get instructions on problems that must be remedied before the grain may be moved. (1076X1315-10A).

ON THE COVER: Ship at the Port of New Orleans takes on load of grain. About two-fifths of U.S. export grain moves through this gulf coast port. (1076X1326-35). An inspector draws a sample of grain from a boxcar. (0476X357-14A).



LEFT: An inspector examines a ship's hold to insure that it is clean and free of insects and other contamination before grain is loaded. (1076X1332-22A).

RIGHT: In a laboratory grain samples are test-weighed, then graded according to U.S. standards. Grades affect market value and ultimate use of the grain. (1076X1329-20).



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